



HOUSING AUTHORITY
of the CITY of SANTA BARBARA

COMMUNITY TIMES NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter from the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara providing information and resources available during the COVID-19 Pandemic about:



Financial Assistance Resources

PAGES 2-3



Legal Services

PAGE 3



Food & Basic Necessities

PAGES 4-5



Supportive and Mental Health Services

PAGE 6



Educational Resources

PAGE 7

DEAR HOUSING AUTHORITY FAMILIES,

While the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 crisis continues, the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara remains committed to serving our community, as we've done for the past 50 years. Please note that at this time all of our offices are closed to clients and visitors, and all upcoming events have been postponed. We will be conducting business with limited staff and reduced hours.

The Housing Authority team is working hard to ensure the health and wellbeing of our clients, our staff, and the agency as a whole; while we remain responsive to the needs of our community, including you, our clients. Currently, we are able to support Housing Authority clients in the following ways:

1. **Rent Change Requests** - If you've experienced a loss of income, send us an email at info@hacsb.org or a fax at (805) 564 - 7041; or you may also drop off a note through the mail slot in our front door at 808 Laguna Street. *(Note: Rent change requests will be processed for the first of the month following verification of the change).*
2. **Resident Services** - For clients in need of non-emergency support, service coordination, or social service referrals during this time, you may contact (805) 897 - 1036 or (805) 897 - 1083 for help in connecting to needed resources. The Housing Authority's Supportive Services Program, contracted through Family Service Agency, is an important resource to Housing Authority families during this time *(for more information please see page 6)*.
3. **Annual Recertifications** - To be conducted via telephone, mail, and electronically. Please contact your case manager with any questions.
4. **Maintenance Requests** - As a precautionary health measure due to COVID-19, the Housing Authority's Maintenance Department is currently only responding to emergency repairs. All routine maintenance repairs will be handled at a later time when deemed appropriate. For maintenance emergencies during normal business hours, please call (805) 897 - 1060. For after-hours emergencies, call (805) 965 - 1071.
5. **PayLease** - For your convenience, Housing Authority tenants can now pay their rent online! If you would like to set up online rent payment, please call or email your case manager in Housing Management to receive your unique tenant account number. *(For the Housing Authority's staff directory please refer to our website <https://hacsb.org/aboutus/staff-directory/>).* Then visit www.paylease.com, or call 1(866) 729 - 5327 to create your individual online account.

All other services and appointments are on hold for now, however we will do our best to respond to inquiries as we receive them. Stay safe and we appreciate your patience during this time.

THANK YOU,

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

COVID-19 Response Grants

United Way of Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara Foundation, and Hutton Parker Foundation are leading a countywide collaborative to provide assistance to individuals and families affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Individual financial need grants are available to help struggling community members secure and maintain basic needs, cover unexpected child care and education expenses, and recover from loss of wages due to business closures and social distancing measures.

Individuals and families in need, can access an application at www.surveymonkey.com/r/T987XG3.

Unemployment Benefits

Individuals that have lost jobs or experienced reduced work hours as a result of the coronavirus can access the governments' economic relief for workers by completing an application for Unemployment Insurance. There are multiple ways to file for Unemployment Insurance Benefits:

Online: You can file a claim at www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI_Online.htm

By-Phone: Representatives are available at the following toll-free numbers, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

English: 1(800) 300 - 5616

Spanish: 1(800) 326 - 8937

TTY: 1(800) 815 - 9387

Remote Tax Preparation Assistance

To avoid face-to-face contact and the spread of COVID-19, effective April 8, 2020, the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program** will offer limited tax preparation services.

The United Way of Santa Barbara County, located at 320 E. Gutierrez Street in Santa Barbara, will serve as a drop-off location for tax payers to leave their paperwork for tax preparation.

For additional details please visit, www.unitedwaysb.org.

One Fair Wage Emergency Fund

An emergency fund is available for restaurant workers, delivery drivers, and other tipped workers who have been affected by coronavirus and the economic downturn.

To apply for assistance please visit, www.ofwemergencyfund.org/help.

Economic Impact Payments

The IRS will be calculating and automatically sending economic impact payments to those that are eligible. The vast majority of people do not need to take any action, however, anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 should file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment.

For more information please visit, www.irs.gov/coronavirus.

805 UndocuFund

The 805 UndocuFund exists to serve immigrant families who are being impacted by the outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19). The Fund is a collective effort among Ventura and Santa Barbara County-based grassroots organizations to assist local undocumented immigrant individuals and families who are excluded from federally funded safety net programs; that have been economically impacted by the loss of their homes, wages, and/or employment due to disasters in our community like the coronavirus.

For more information, and to apply for assistance please visit,
www.805undocufund.org/aplicar.

Another Round Another Rally

A non-profit financial resource for individuals in the hospitality industry, offering relief grants up to \$500 for hospitality workers who lost their jobs or had their hours reduced as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

For more information please visit,
www.anotherroundanotherally.org

Applications can be accessed here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxkiDKv5U-hZHo_tPTVPHLNuUK8Kz0_tQHMGXTjKUIrtnRQ/viewform.



LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County

Legal Aid provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income families and individuals, people with disabilities, seniors, and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, trafficking or other abuse who are residing in Santa Barbara County.

Legal Aid staff is available for service by phone during the COVID-19 pandemic, and can be reached at (805) 963 - 6754.



FOOD & BASIC NECESSITIES

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County provides free food and programs for children, families and seniors. For more information call (805) 967 - 5741.

Listed below are Foodbank's free food resources in Santa Barbara:

Children's Park

(520 Wentworth Ave.) -
Every 1st and 2nd Tuesday of
each month at 1:00 PM

Franklin Community Center

(1136 E. Montecito St.) -
Every 3rd Tuesday each month at 1:30
PM and every Thursday at 1:00 PM

Westside Community Center

(423 W. Victoria St.) -
Every Monday at 1:00 PM

Catholic Charities

(609 E. Haley St.) -
Monday through Friday
from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Unity Shoppe

(1401 Chapala St.) -
Monday through Friday
from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

New Life Church

(50 W. Alamar) -
Each 3rd Tuesday from
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Grace Food Pantry

(3869 State St.) -
Every 1st, 2nd & 4th Saturday of each
month from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Iglesia Bautista

(736 W. Haley Street) -
Every other Thursday
from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Salvation Army

(4849 Hollister Road) -
Call for distribution at
(805) 964 - 8738 x20

Harding Elementary School

(1625 Robbins) -
Every 4th Tuesday each month
from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

CalFresh

Do you need help putting food on the table? **CalFresh** (also known as Food Stamps or SNAP) may be able to help. **CalFresh** is a supplemental program that helps limited-income individuals and families buy the food they need. You can apply!

Go to www.getcalfresh.org to fill out an application, or call 1(877) 847 - 3663 to get connected to your local county office.

If you get CalFresh in the month of April, you may be eligible for extra benefits.

Unity Shoppe

Unity Shoppe's food distribution center, located at 1401 Chapala Street, is providing emergency food services Monday-Friday from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. The Housing Authority can provide any families or individuals in need with a referral.

Please contact Leticia Zuniga at (805) 897-1059 or zuniga@hacsb.org for additional information.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The HEAP payment assistance program, administered by Santa Barbara Community Action Commission, can help those in financial need prevent service interruption or restore disconnected utility services. Assistance payments are provided for gas or electric services. Intake centers are located throughout the county for easy access and intake assistance if needed.

Currently, applications are being accepted via fax, email, or mail, and can be accessed online at www.cacsb.org/low-income-assistance/energy-payment-services.

Santa Barbara County Education Office

Food will be available for children under the age of 18 at school sites. For more information please visit, www.sbceo.org/student-nutrition.

Unites Boys and Girls Club

Brown bag free lunch for club members, pick up will occur every day at 12:00 PM.

Out of Pocket Medical Costs

The **PAN Foundation** assists low-income individuals with insurance to cover out of pocket costs for significant health issues. Individuals experiencing barriers in paying for needed medications or treatment may be eligible for assistance.

For more information visit please, www.panfoundation.org/index.php/en.

2-1-1

Dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211 to get connected to health and human services resource information or please visit, www.211santabarbaracounty.org.

Assistance is available 24/7 in multiple languages, free, and confidential.



SUPPORTIVE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Family Service Agency

Family Service Agency administers the Housing Authority's **Supportive Services Program**, aimed at supporting Housing Authority families, seniors, and individuals through case management, care coordination and counseling services. Currently the Supportive Services team is unable to conduct home or office visits, but members of the team may be reached by phone or email for those in need of support or assistance. Services are free and confidential.

Hannah Grey: (805) 451 - 4580 or hgrey@fsacares.org

Diana Rodriguez (bilingual): (805) 319 - 6496 or drodriguez@fsacares.org

Family Service Agency's free and confidential **Parenting Coaching Program** serves as a **Warm Line** offering parenting and relationship support to members of the community needing support in navigating the challenges of parenting. The Parent Coaching warm-line is open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday. Calls will be responded to within 24-48 hours. *Note that this warm-line is not intended for crisis calls.* Parents looking for solutions to everyday parenting problems, can call or email FSA's bilingual Parent Educators for compassionate listening and gentle guidance:

Veronica Lopez: (805) 868 - 0160 (English Line)

Ana Ochoa: (805) 680 - 0438 (Spanish Line)

Santa Barbara County Community Wellness Team

For those seeking social and emotional support during this difficult and stressful time, the Santa Barbara County Community Wellness Team has a host of resources available, and can be reached at (805) 364 - 2750.

CALM

CALM offers services to families and children aimed at strengthening families and building support. CALM has created a list of resources to help children and adults during the COVID-19 Crisis. For more information, call (805) 965 - 2376 or visit www.calm4kids.org/covid-19-resources.

Domestic Violence Solutions

Due to COVID-19 health and safety standards, drop-in consultation and support is available via phone or video conferencing. If you are interested in speaking with a counselor, please call Domestic Violence Solutions at (805) 964 - 5245 to set-up an appointment.



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Santa Barbara Public Library

The **Santa Barbara Public Library** has launched **SBPL Delivers**, a pilot program to get 1-4 library books (or other items) delivered to patrons' doors when they are not able to come to the library. Anyone with a library card that is in good standing, and living in the Santa Barbara Public Library service area (Santa Barbara, Carpinteria or Montecito) can request one delivery per person during this pilot phase, using the online forms linked below:

Adults: <https://forms.gle/SdqzviJXRcaaDzGu9>

Children: <https://forms.gle/fBERLCm2291LMeh67>

Computers for Families

The Computers for Families program was created in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Education office to provide computers and internet access to local students lacking these important educational tools at home. For more information, call (805) 964 - 4711 ext. 5454, email cff@sbceo.org or visit partners.sbceo.org/programs/computers-for-families.



IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please be mindful of the State of California's Stay-at-Home Order that is currently in place. All Housing Authority residents are encouraged to stay at home, restricting non-essential movements, and limit non-essential visitors to our properties during this time. Please do your part to help control the spread of the coronavirus that threatens to overwhelm our local medical system.

In consideration for the safety of our staff and community, Housing Authority offices are currently closed. There will be minimal staff reviewing and responding to email messages and maintenance emergencies for Housing Authority units. Instead of visiting our offices, we encourage you to call (805) 965 - 1071, or call your case manager directly. (TTY English: (866) 660 - 4288, TTY Spanish (866) 288 - 1311)

All other services and appointments are on hold for now, however we will do our best to respond to inquiries as we receive them. Stay safe and we appreciate your patience during this time.